of Environment and Forests from environment/forest angle with specific reference to major issue like fly ash utilisation, rehabilitaion and resettlement plan and ash disposal plant. An amount of Rs. 57 crores has been allocated in the budget estimates for 1991-92.

Reconstitution of Minorities Commission

474. MAULANA OBAIDULIAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reconstitute the Minorities Commission in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of vacant posts of Members of the Commission at present; and

(d) by when the vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to confer statutory status on the Minorities Commission.

(c) There are two vacant posts of Members.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Inclusion of Assam Koch-Rajbanshi in ST List

475. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have receive any proposal from the Assam Koch-Rajbanshi Sarmillan for inclusion of the Rajbanshis in the list of scheduled tribes;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter;

(c) what is the opinion of the Assam Government on the matter; and

(d) by when Government will take a decision in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Any amendment in the existing list of scheduled tribes can be made only through an Act of Parliament as laid down in Article 342(2) of the Constitution.

Development of Tribal Areas in Andhra Pradesh

476. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for accelerating development of tribal areas in Andhra Pradesh is under way;

(b) if so, what are the details of the same and the central assistance provided under the scheme; and

(c) what progress has been made so far under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Curbing atrocities on SC/ST and other weaker sections of the society

477. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 116 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd September, 1991 and state the reponse of the State Governments to the measures taken by the Central Government to curb atrocities on SCs/STs and other weaker sections?